were through a gut. Beſides it has no ſupport of any fix'd point, but is always ſwimming in the ditch-water, and ſhews no great local motion. We ſaw other inſects preying upon it, which reſemble ſmall hogs, and are exceſſive buſy in eating of its leaves, which are probably the cauſe of its looking ſo bleak and withered when dead. I remain,

SIR,

Your moſt humble

Bruſſels, Sept. 20, 1755.

and obedient ſervant,

T. Brady.

XLI. *A ſhort Account of ſome new Aſtronomical and Phyſical Obſervations made in* Aſia; *and communicated to* Matthew Maty, *M. D. F. R. S. by his Excellency Mr.* Porter, *his Majeſty's Ambaſſador at* Conſtantinople, *and F. R. S.*

Conſtantinople, May 17, 1755.

Read Nov. 6, 1755. I Send you incloſed the extract of a French letter I received from a perſon of great abilities, whoſe hiſtory I cannot immediately communicate to you. It was ſent me by the conſul of Aleppo. The author is perfectly verſed in moſt branches of phyſics, as well as in the art of healing.

Extract of a French *Letter, tranſmitted to his Excellency* James Porter, *Eſq; by the* Engliſh *Conſul at* Aleppo.

Sina, Dec. 14, 1754.

I Have determin'd, with the utmoſt exactneſs, ſeveral latitudes and longitudes. You know, Sir, of what importance it is to have in the eaſt ſome fixed points, by means of which, as well as itineraries, one might conſtruct more correct maps than thoſe, which have hitherto been publiſhed. I have the honour to communicate to you ſome latitudes of the principal places, which I have obſerved, and my obſervation of a ſtar's occultation by the moon.

Aleppo. Lat. North	36h	12′	
Mount Caſſius	36	4	
Seleucia in Syria	36	3	
Antioch	36	10	
Diarbekir	37	54	
Bagdad	33	19	54″

Immerſion of ω. Virginis under the Moon, obſerved June 10, 1753, at Diarbekir, near the Seraglio of the Bachaw.

1753, June 10. Altitudes of	☉	at	9h	56′	4″	a. m.	30°	A
	☉			58	55	-	30	B
	☉		10	4	13	-	28 30′	C
	☉			7	4	-	28 30	D
Correſponding Obſerv. p. m.	A		2	3	32			
	B		2	-	43			
	C		1	55	28			
	D		1	52	35			

The Immerſion of the Star was obſerved June 10, at 9h 48′ 4″ at night.

The Emerſion	9	39	47

June 11. Altitudes of the Sun. a. m.			Correſponding Obſerv. p. m.
⊙ 7h 28′ 13″	⊙ 58° 30′	- - -	4h 28′ 53″
7 30 54	⊙ 58 30	- - -	4 26 15
7 35 53	⊙ 57	- - -	4 21 16
7 38 33	⊙ 57	- - -	4 18 36

Sina, or Sneirne, in Mr. de Liſle's Maps.
Lat. North. 30° 9′
34° 23′ 35″ That Village is no farther diſtant from Hamadan than 8 common Leagues, of 25 to a Degree.

I have begun my obſervations upon aſtronomical refractions, which here are ſomewhat leſs than in Europe. I think myſelf ſure, that the vaſt number of ſtars, which one imagines to ſee in Europe, in a clear winter-night, is not a mere illuſion cauſed by the ſcintillations of the ſtars, marked in the catalogues, and upon Blaew's globes; but that it comes from thoſe very ſtars, which here we obſerve at ſimple ſight, and in Europe, only by means of ſhort teleſcopes, as the air there is much more loaded with vapours than it is here. Yet, whatever travellers may ſay, I always obſerved here ſome ſcintillations.

That the nitre is produced by a combination of the univerſal acid with the natrum of the ancients, appears by my obſervations. The aſa fœtida is drawn from a ferulaceous plant of the thapſia kind, which plant is very common in Media, &c. I have had the good luck to find the ſmall nardus Indica: It is a gramineous plant, of which ſome bear ſpicaceous flowers, both male and female, and others only female ones. I ſend you ſome ſeeds of this plant. It is a valuable thing to botaniſts, as they are hitherto ignorant of the true genus of this plant, tho' the root is in uſe ever ſince the age of Dioſcorides.

I have

I have dried about two thouſand plants, among which are ſeveral new genera, and ſome ſpecies hitherto undeſcribed.

I ſometimes amuſe myſelf with electricity. This country is ſo dry, that the experiments often ſucceed without any ſtand of bitumen, pitch, ſilk, glaſs, *&c.* Our carpets and beavers are moſtly ſufficient to retain the electrical virtue, and prevent its ſpreading to the floor. Ten men ſtanding upright, one before the other, have been made electrical, and, being touched, have produced ſparks.

XLII. *Some Obſervations proving, that the Fœtus is in part nouriſhed by the Liquor Amnii.* *By* Malcolm Fleming, *M. D.*

Read Nov. 13, 1755.

BEſides the myſterious affair of generation, beſides the manner of the formation of the embryo, and the changes it undergoes, while it continues extremely ſmall, concerning all which we ſhall ever remain very much in the dark; there are not a few things relating even to the mature fœtus, which create matter of diſpute amongſt anatomiſts and phyſiologiſts. Of theſe the manner of its nouriſhment *in utero* is not the leaſt important.

The preſent ſtate of the controverſy concerning this matter turns on the following preciſe point, to wit, whether the fœtus in utero be nouriſhed ſolely by the blood, which is tranſmitted to it through the umbilical